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# PASQUIN.



Y last Mail I was honoured with a Packet from my old Friend, and Acquaintance, Cardinal *Gualtieri*, Lord Protector at *Rome* of the British Nation here, especially of that part called Protestants; of Protestants those termed High ones; and of High Ones, more especially those who do his Mock-Majesty most Service, by taking the Oaths to King **GEORGE**; thereby qualifying themselves to get into Offices, Places, Parl—nts, &c. In this Packet were contained two things, *The Chevalier's Declaration*, and a Fable of Miner-

va's Favourite Bird. The former, I find the Laws will not suffer me to publish, because they say tis High-Treason; but for the latter, you have it here translated, *Verbatim*, from his Eminency's own *Italian*.

## The FABLE.

**O**NCE upon a time, when Birds could speak, a meagre Owl hopp'd out of a hollow Tree; and being well perch'd on an adjoining Branch of Ivy, hooted as followeth.

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THE Obligations which we owe to our Honour, and to the Safety and Tranquillity of our Native Country, which, above all Tyes, is the dearest to us, and the tenderest: The Steps which are so apparently taken to enslave our Subjects: The late unexampled Violation of the Freedom of Hooting and Whistling, by which the feather'd Constitution is entirely subverted, and a new sort of Tyranny, introduced unknown to all Birds living: Conspiracies invented on purpose by those who hatched them: And to arm our Kingdom against it self, at a time when it was well known all Attempts were imaginary and impracticable: The Lives, Liberties and Fortunes of our Subjects, at the Mercy of infamous Birds, who foul their own Nests; cruelly exposed every Day to Subornation and Perjury, and every honest Bird that whistles like our selves in a State of Proscription.

These and many other Considerations of the highest Importance to the Repose and Security of our Subjects, exciting our Compassion, have engaged us to enter seriously into Our Self, to examine and consult our Heart, what Sacrifice to make on our Part, for the publick Peace, and consider earnestly of some method of restoring Tranquillity, especially to those fine Canary-Birds of whom we are the Natural and undoubted Father.

To express therefore, and signify in the most publick Manner, our ardent Desire to compose all present Differences, to avert all future Evils, that no Blame may be now or hereafter imputed to us; but that whatever Calamity shall happen, may be only and solely chargeable upon the Obstinacy or Ambition of others, we declare, that provided the Eagle will deliver quietly to us the Possession of his Throne, (a most reasonable and modest Request) we will quietly take the Possession of it, and make no Inquisition for any Thing that is past. We will acknowledge him an Eagle as long as he lives, inviting all other princely Birds to do the same; we will live in Brotherly Amity with him, and contribute all our Endeavours to establish him, and his Family, in Prosperity and Royal Grandeur,

where an uncontested Right will free him from the Crime and Reproach of all Tyranny, and a quiet Conscience will make his Dignity sit easy on his Head; leaving at the same Time his Succession to our Dominions very secure, whenever the Fare Divino Race of Owls are extinct.

In order to induce the Eagle to quit the Possession of his Seat, let him compare a calm, undisturb'd Reign over a willing and obedient Flight of Birds, who are his natural Subjects, to the Possession of a strange Nest; where Authority forcing the Inclinations of the Birds, can only be supported by Blood, Violence, and Rapine, eternally subject to Fears and Alarms, even when no Danger appears: Let him consider also the Difference between a fix'd and solid Establishment of Regal Power in himself, and the Royal Race of Eagles descended from him, with the frail and uncertain Settlement of a Title, which must and shall, whilst we have Breath, or any Owl of our Line is in being, be for ever disputed. Let him reflect, that St. Peter's Net never fails sooner or later to catch all Oppressing Birds, and to redress the innocent and injur'd Ones. Instead of advising with an imperious Council, as much Tyrants over him as our Subject-Birds, (*which is evident by their Enmity to Our Cause*) let him consult his Reason, let him ask his Conscience, let him examine his Interest and his Glory; nay, his very Ambition will advise him to descend from his lofty Perch, which, as I have said, must be always shaking, to mount another, which we Our Self will suffer to remain firm and secure.

We conjure all Birds, especially those of our Feather, to be aiding and assisting to us in this our just and amicable Proposal, whereby, without Effusion of any Blood, but that of a few Heretical Mice, Justice may be done to an injured Owl, and an Equivalent provided sufficient to content an Eagle.

As a farther Inducement to all the well-fledged Powers to enter more seriously and deliberately into this important Proposition, *viz.* We offer *our self* to make good on *our part* all such

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Alliances as have been already contracted, especially such as are conducive to our Peace and Tranquillity, and to enter into any new ones, that may be judged necessary for the farther strengthening and securing thereof.

That there may likewise remain no Objection from the Fears and Apprehensions of any one Bird in our own Dominions conscious of having Offended against us, we promise a full, free and universal Pardon to all Birds without any Exception whatsoever, excepting such who are not of my own Feather and Complexion; that thereby every such Bird, who is my Friend, may hereafter live quietly under his own Shade, enjoy his Hollow Tree undisturbed, and rest in his Ivy-Bush in Peace.

Our Desire is to embrace in our Talons the whole feather'd Race, without any Distinction or Reserve, to root up the very Seeds of Prejudice and Division, that all Notes of Discord, Separation or Difference of Parties, and all reproachful Denominations may be for ever extinguished, and that We and our Flock may have but one Aspect, one Note, one way of Hooting.

That tenderness, that love of the Canary-Birds, and that Good-will to all the Feather'd Kind, (in which we have been hatch'd and bred up) prompt and incline us in the first Place to the Ways of Mercy and Peace.

It is therefore, that waving all present Application (which we formerly made in vain, and at present do make) to all Brethren of the Bill, who, considering how much in reality our Cause is their own, might reasonably be induced to aid us in vindicating that Majesty of O U R S, which they behold oppres'd and affronted in our Person, and sacrificing all Resentment, Passion or Desire of Mouling, we now seek and *condescend* to shake hand with the Eagle and all his Train. And,

This Declaration we make from our hollow

Tree, this present tenth of September 1712, in the twenty first year of our Reign.

This Ivy-Bush Declaration being thus ended, the Owls made a great shout, some few Geese gagg'd, and the Eagle smiled; but Silence being proclaimed, his Mock-Majesty, the Owl, proceeded thus,

Since we first proposed to publish this Our Declaration to the World, it is come to our Knowledge, that divers of our Subjects continue daily to be questioned and imprisoned for nightly Correspondence with us. That Parrots, Jack-Daws, and other pratling Birds are become so numerous, and are so openly careſ'd and encouraged, that no Owl is safe: That the Terror of these arbitrary and violent Proceedings is become dreadful to all the feathered Region, not excepting the very Black-Birds and Magpies, where without any regard to past Services, the poor Birds are exposed to cruel and unmerciful Punishments, without any other Crime pretended, but the bare Suspicion of their being like us in their Note and Feather.

We think it therefore a further Duty incumbent upon us as an Owl, to interpose in the Behalf of all Night Birds, and to forewarn the Subjects of the Eagle to take special heed how they rashly involve themselves in the Crime of persecuting my favourite Hedge-Birds, or dip their hands in the Blood of any Night Ravens. For, we are resolved to keep a strict and exact Account of the Sufferings even of the meanest Bat.

And because, amongst other poor unbirdly and ungenerous Practices, nothing has been so much encouraged, as Slander and malicious Aspersions upon our Twylight Majesty, we declare that we wou'd disdain, even to roost in the Eagle's Nest, by stooping to such mean Flights as are taken to keep us out of it. We are incapable of using any Methods, even for such

a Settlement, but what are consistent with our Honour and the Dignity of Owls; despising all Calumnies, which we scorn to extort in a Manner unbecoming the Countenance of our Gravity.

We have only to add, that

*Moore of Moore-hall,  
With Nothing at all,  
He slew the Dragon of Wantley.*

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